September 1982 NSRP 0009

SHIP PRODUCTION COMMITTEE
FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
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# THE NATIONAL SHIPBUILDING RESEARCH PROGRAM

Proceedings of the IREAPS Technical Symposium

Paper No. 3:

**CASA: A System for Computer Aided Ship Accommodation** 

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARDEROCK DIVISION,
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER

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13. SUPPLEMENTARY NO	OTES				
14. ABSTRACT					
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# Proceedings IREAPS Technical Symposium September 14-16-1982 San Diego, California

# **VOLUME** I



INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING FOR AUTOMATION AND PRODUCTIVITY IN SHIPBUILDING

# CASA: A SYSTEM FOR COMPUTER AIDED SHIP ACCOMMODATION

Piergiacomo Banda Manager Technical Applications Italcantieri Trieste, Italy

Dr. Banda is currently rasponsible for defining strategies of the company in the technical applications field from the hardware and software point of view. He has spent the majority of the last 10 years managing software projects for basic and detailed design of ships.

Dr. Banda holds PhD degrees in naval architecture and in mechanical engineering. He has been appointed to the International Organizing Committee of ICCAS.

Giustiniano Di Filippo Project Leader Italcantieri Trieste, Italy

Dr. Di Filippo is currently responsible for the design and development of a system for the general arrangement plan known as GAP. He previously served as project leader of the CASA system

Dr. Di Filippo holds a PhD degree in mechanical engineering.

### ABSTRACT

The Computer Aided Ship Accommodation (CASA) system is very advanced in the field of automatic design. CASA has been planned for the production of drawings of high graphic quality, the relevant bill of material, and the preparation of the workship documentation. The system uses interactive graphic techniques to facilitate both the man-machine communication and to increase the throughput and flexibility of the programs.

CASA has three main modules: (1) Description of standards is handled in In this case the input concerns standard materials descripbatch mode. tion and general selection rules. These data are stored into the database of the system, drawings and lists are also provided. (2) Description of From structural drawings the main data are loaded into ship design data. the computer for further processing. All the operations of this phase are considerably simplified (thanks to a particular "user-oriented" language) and do not require specific knowledge of EDP. Relevant output drawing will constitute the basic layout of accommodation. (3) Interac-From description of construction data and standards tive automatic design. with the aid of interactive functions of CASA, "automatic" and "interac-Automatic design, which foresees data protive" design are developed. cessing for each constructive detail, is completely handled in its initial Interactive design allows corrections and modifiphase in batch mode. cations of data and programs with immediate feedback, thus giving the operator the possibility of a quick and easy communication with the computer.

The problem

Furnishing of naval superstructures includes: localization and -definition of habitable volumes, their sub divisions in cabins, service rooms, rooms for common use etc., definition of materials needed for construction of all this and for furnishing of all rooms; pre paration of all drawings and lists necessary for or ders, construction, and fitting up on board. This activity, which is gratifying for a creativity aspect in the phases of design and furnishing definition, be comes extremely boring in the successive phase concerning detailed specification of the thousands of components necessary.

The solution

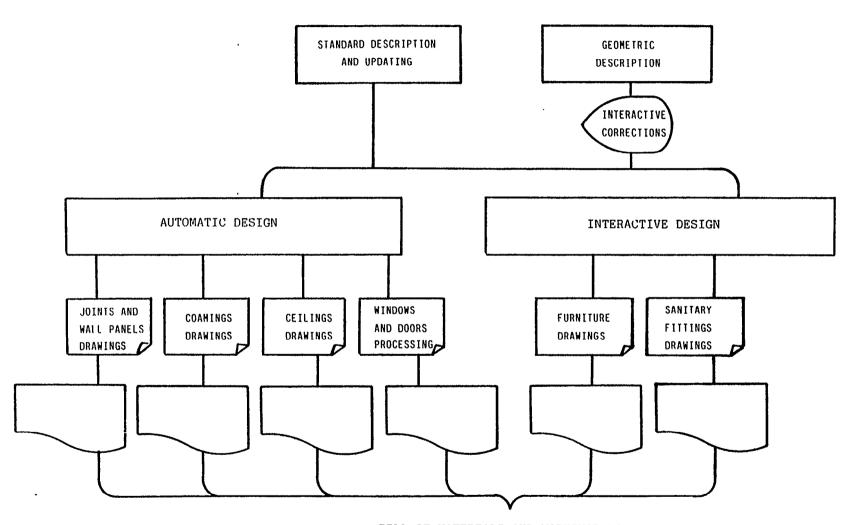
The CASA (Computer Aided Ship Accomodation) without interfering with designer's creativity, and helping instead the designer with ease of execution in his choice among many alternatives, automatically produces all drawings consequent upon design activities, subdivides furnishing elements in elementary components, prepares materials lists and automatically produces all work-shop documents.

CASA SYSTEM

The CASA system is subdivided into three principal modules:

- STANDARDS DESCRIPTION
- GEOMETRI C DESCRIPTION OF SHIP AND AUTOMATI C DESIGN
- DESIGN IN THE INTERACTIVE MODE

# CASA SYSTEM GENERAL FLOW



· BILL OF MATERIALS AND WORKSHOP DOCUMENTS

# STANDARD DESCRIPTION

At the basis of any computer data handling there is always a high standardization of material to be handled.

But standardization introduces into design a rigidity factor which, if it is not carefully estimated, may considerably reduce the utility of the software tool.

The CASA management of standards has overcome this obstacle by allowing to insert, cancel and modify the standardized elements by simple draftsmen operations.

The most important furnishing elements to be codified are: doors, walls, ceilings, sidelights, windows, furniture, sanitary fittings, profiles of walls and ceilings, support furrings, coamings, etc.

All standardized materials are completed with a code which foresees on easy identification of the product and of its components from the order to the reception, manifacturing and installation on board.

The data-base of standards stores the codes and data regarding the materials to be used in all ships. For every new ship the general standards are examined and if necessary integrated or modified.

In the standards data-base are also stored the graphic elements which appear in the drawings such as: beds. tables. chairs etc.

# GEOMETRI C DESCRI PTI ON OF THE SHI P

The first phase of this job consists of description of all geometric and topographic features of all fur nishing elements and of all structures which are essential for the successive design work.

Subdivision into decks

The ship's superstructures are subdivided into decks and the relevant data are stored deck by deck.

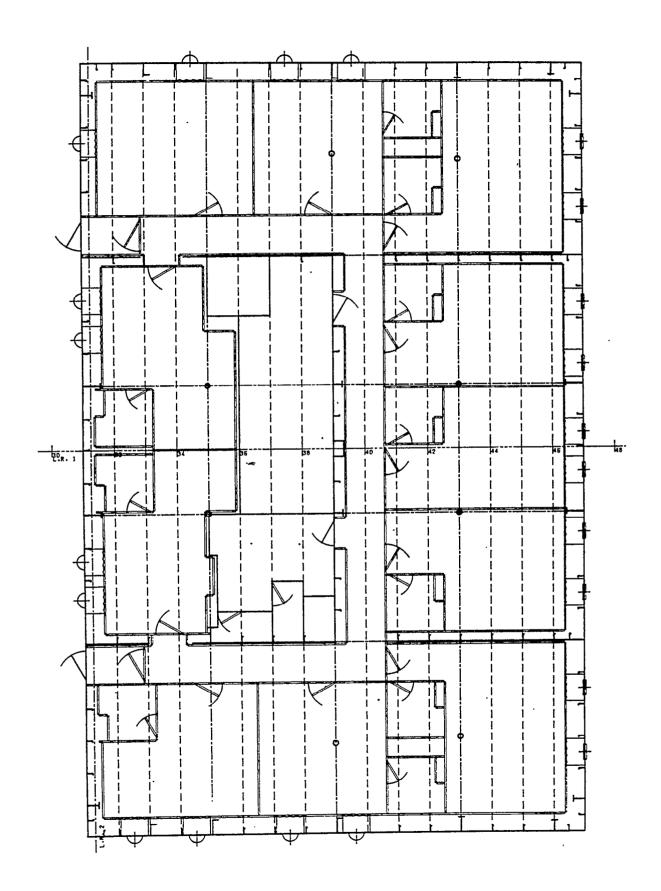
The elements and structures to be stored are:

- steel walls
- internal furnishing walls
- web frames
- girders
- stiffeners
- pillars
- sidelights and windows
- doors
- reference lines
- blocks subdivision lines

The first result of the work performed is a plan obtained by plotter visualizing all input data.

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Interactive correction of data

In this phase it is already possible to intervene in the interactive mode; in fact, using a graphic interactive screen the basic data(as bulkheads, sidelights, or doors) can be simply and immediately corrected.

Menii ,

In order to free the operator from the need to acquire knowledge of the computer operating **system**, **a com** mand table (MENU') is visualized on the screen to facilitate all operations of communication with the computer.

Ease of communication with the computer

By setting the screen cross-hair, on one of the menu rectangles, the program is set to perform all required operations.

Data safety

In the working phases the system, in order to avoid unintentional damages of data by the user, operates on temporary files which are created each **time**, while the ship file is used only in the reading and up-dating phases.

Output facilities

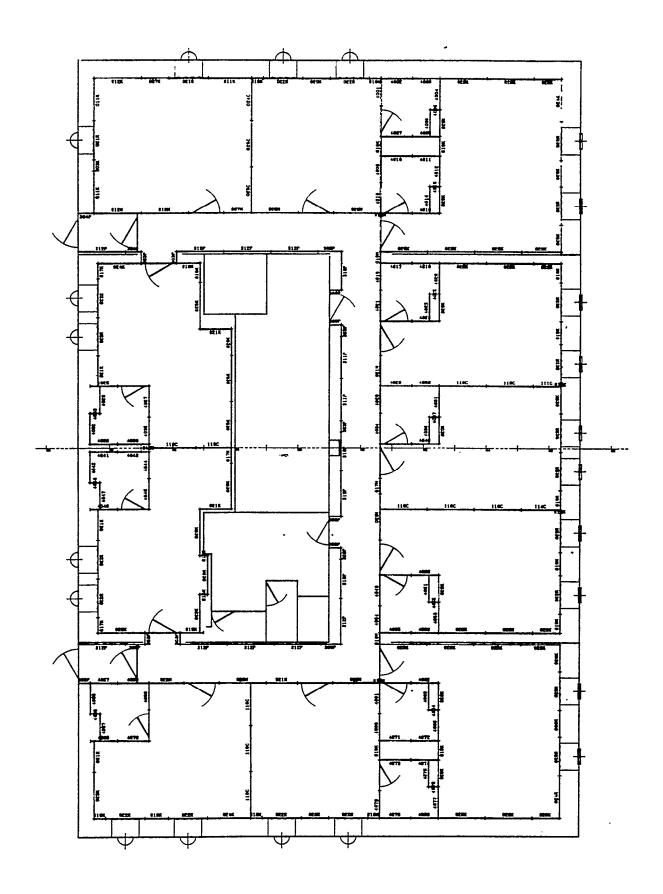
By utilization of the command table, it is also possible to address the stored data to any external support: graphics screens, pen-plotters and printer plotters.

# AUTOMATI C DESI GN

After all data are stored and checked, the successi ve procedures of automatic design are utilized.

Procedure for panels, bulkheads, and joints

CASA automatically subdivides into panels, with mod; lar criteria, all internal furnishing walls. According to the colour and the type of wall they belong to, it classifies and marks all panels, classifies and marks all joints; it produces according to specific criteria of scrap reduction, the cutting schemes for panelling, the plan for joints and all materials lists necessary for order and installation of relevant materials.



Wall panels nesting booklet

These lists are obtained by an automatic procedure starting from the data relevant the decks to be processed and materials to be employed in the construction of the panels.

The following pages show the scheme to be used in the workshop for cutting panels, the scrap of **mate**-rials, the total quantity of the panels to be made per lot and the total average scrap.

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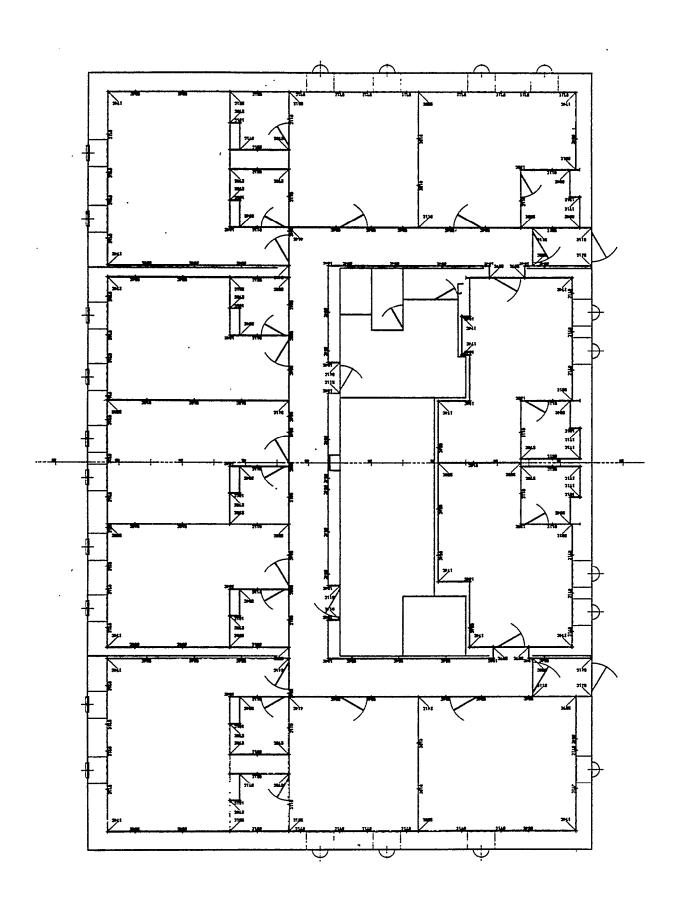
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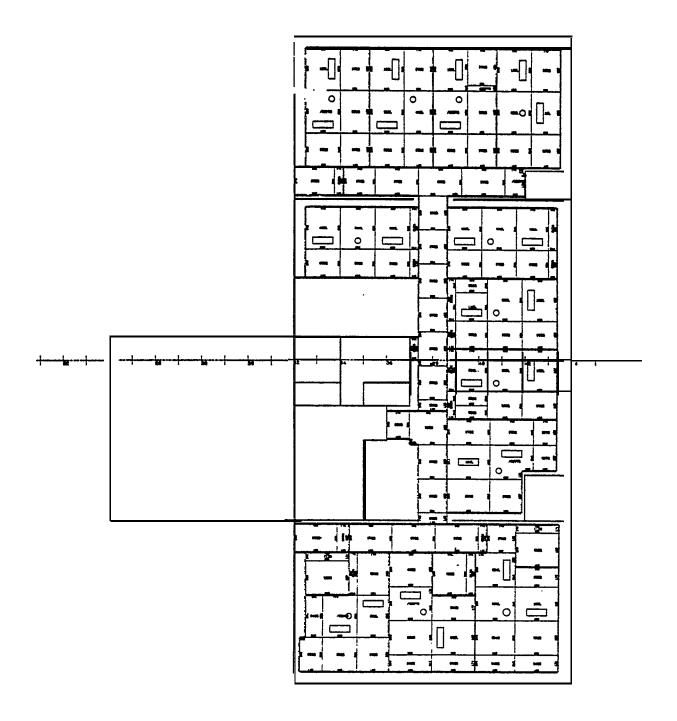
Procedure for ceiling panels

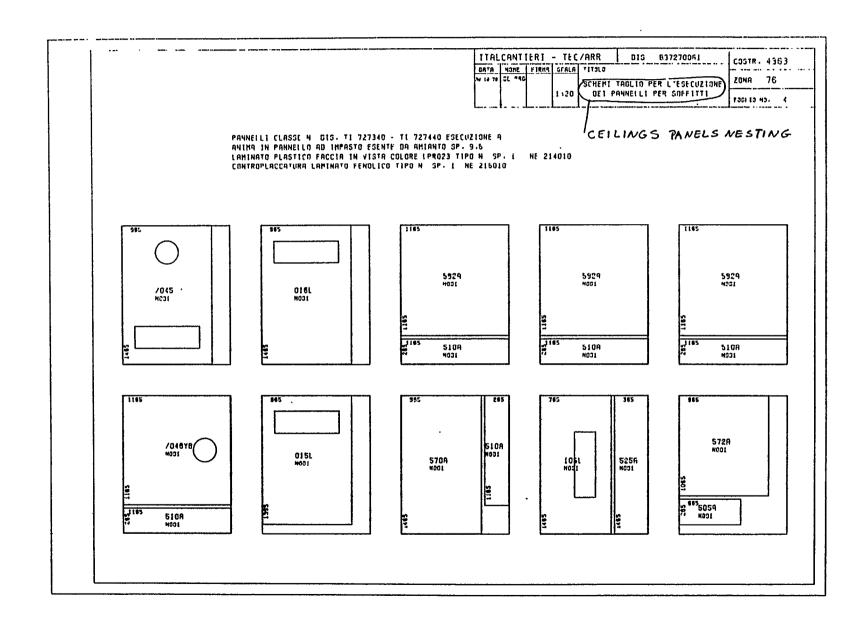
CASA, by working cabin by cabin, subdivides the ceiling into panels following a criterion aiming principally at reducing the junction profiles length and the number of non rectangular panels; the research of the best solution is automatic but it is always possible to introduce, by screen, preferential subdivision Lines and the system automatically fits the subdivision to the imposed lines.

After subdivision, individuation, and marking of panels, storing and marking is performed for profiles and support structural elements of the panels and of ceiling Lamps.

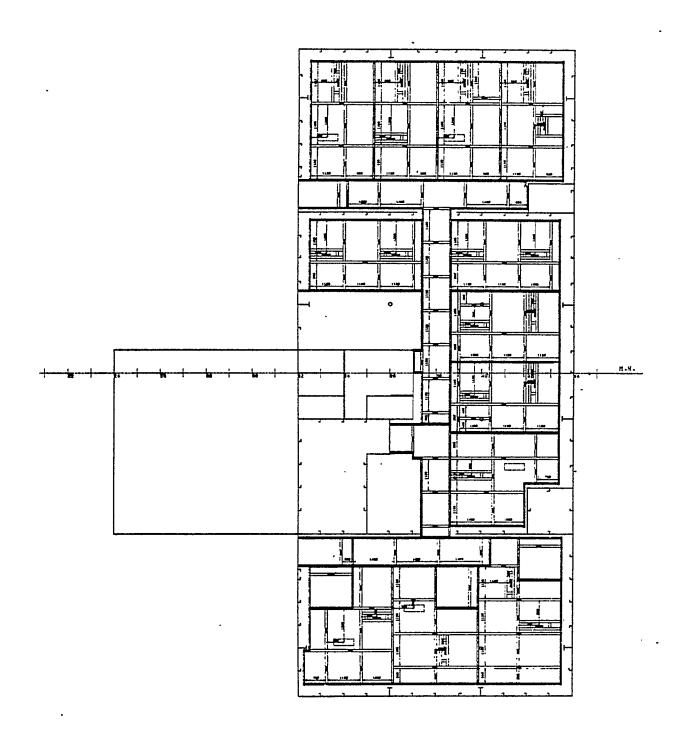
As automatic outputs we have:

- plan for ceiling panelling
- plan for furrings
- panels nesting
- material lists for procurement, construction, and installation of materials on board.





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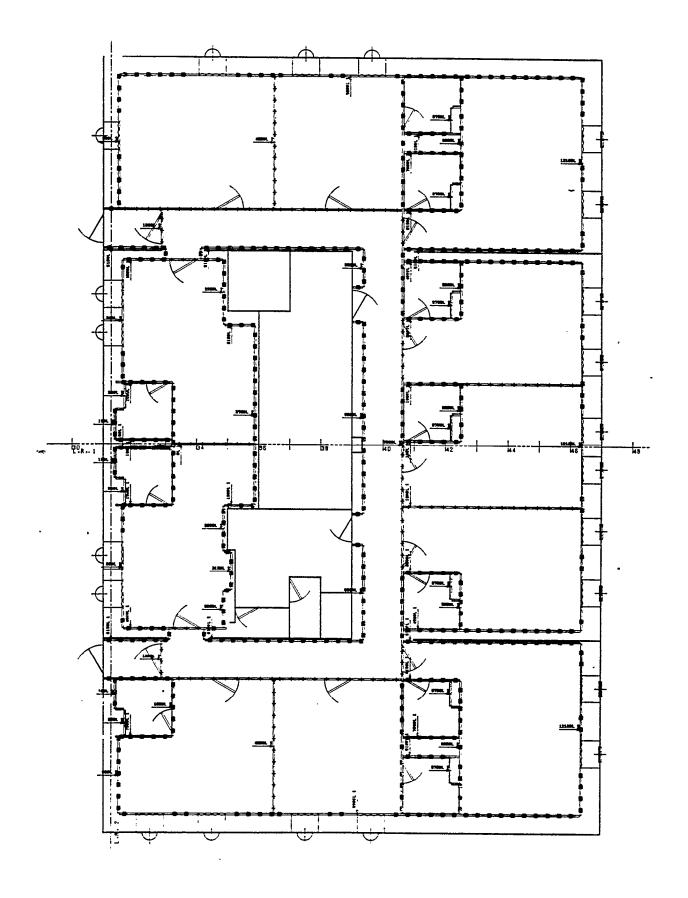
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# Procedure for coamings

On the basis of data regarding bulkheads, the type of room concerned, and height of the utilized floor foundation, the various types of profiles necessary for panels support are identified; after being identified, they are drawn with a symbol which is different for each type of profile.

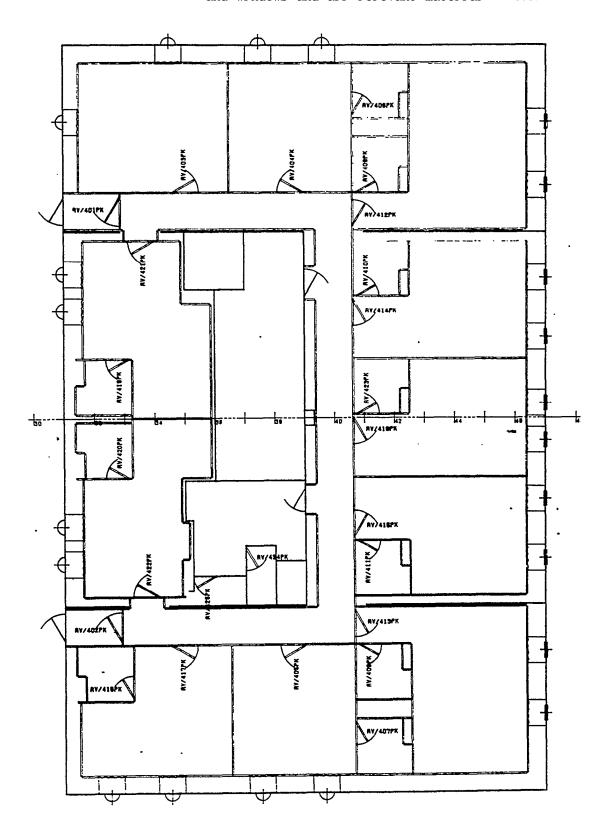
The produced plan reports also the profiles dimensions to the next reference line.

As for the all other outfitting materials also with this procedure all materials lists are automatically produced.



Procedures for doors, sidelights, and windows

Processing of previously stored data produces dimensioned and marked plans regarding doors, sidelights and windows and all relevant material lists.



## I NTERACTI VE DESI GN MODE

In the procedures in which, owing to the fact that the graphic elements to be handled are complex and unforseeable, it is essential to have the availability of the shapes, dimensions and obstacles for a correct storing. For that a graphic-interactive wor king mode has been adopted.

As hardware support a TEKTRONIX screen, with refresh buffer, was chosen and connected to the Main Computer. The principal interactive design procedures are those regarding:

- Furniture
- Sanitary fittings
- Ceiling lamps and anemostats

Procedure for forniture

Differently from other procedures where the deck is the working unit, here the work is performed cabin by cabin in order to increase the execution speed by reducing the graphic elements down to the essential.

\* Ease of use

In order to help the operator, it was decided to standardize, besides all pieces of furniture which may interest naval furnishing, also all possible fur nishing combinations for each type of cabin.

In this way when the operator retrives the cabin on

the screen, all the pieces of furniture which can be there inserted are automatically connected to the cabin's code; they appear one after the other on the screen in the most rational order for the furnishing sequence.

Ease of movements

The graphic elements, which can be connected by a characteristic point at the cross-hair, may be moved on the whole screen and rotated by any angle until they find their most suitable position.

Furnishing for symmetrical or translated cabins

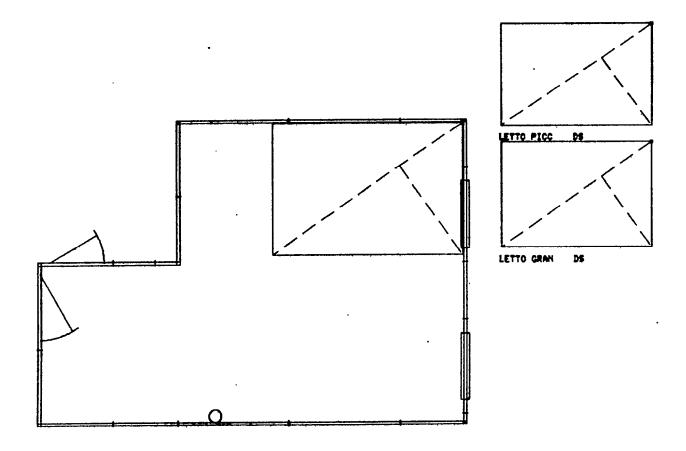
In the case that very often happens in the naval field in which cabins are involved having a perimeter symmetrical or translated with reference to other cabins already furnished, by simple commands it is possible to reverse or translate the existing furniture disposition and avoid the tedious repetition of the work; in this way it is possible to furnish the whole ship deck in a very short time.

Design speed

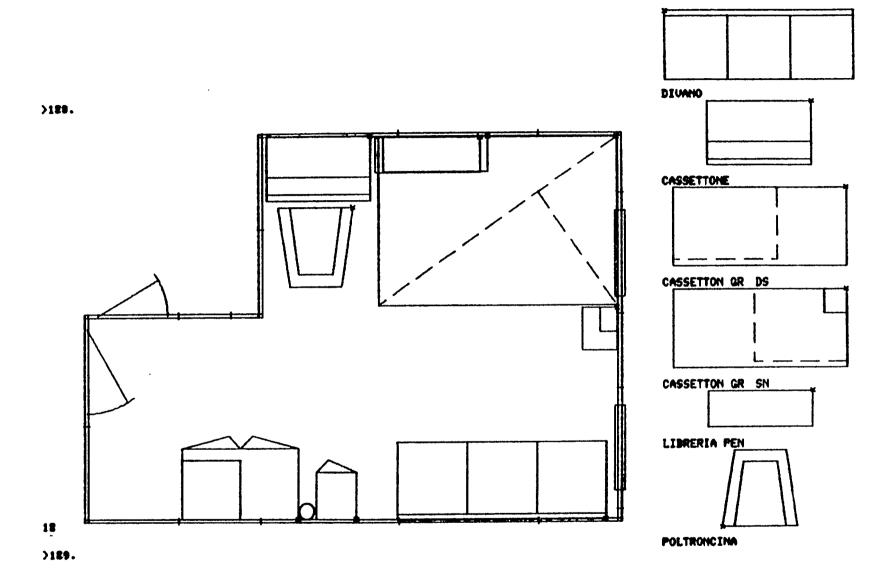
After all cabins are furnished, the system produces, besides the plans in the requested scale, all materials list necessary for construction and assembling of furniture on board.

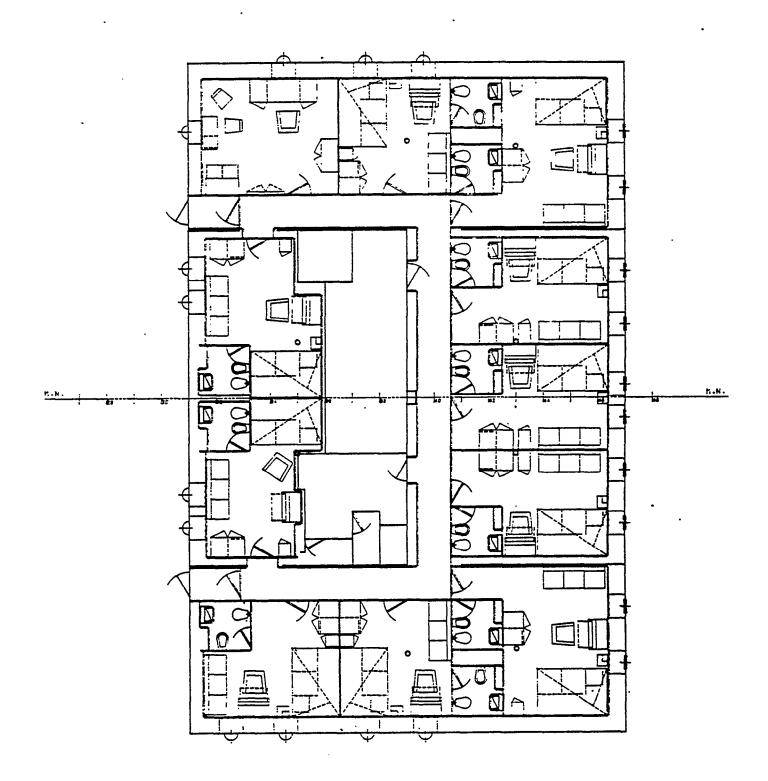
Procedure for sanitary fittings

Byaprocedure similar to that already examined for furniture, sanitary fittings with all accessories are also positioned **by** screen in the sanitary rooms and also here it is possible to obtain very easily all the drawings and the material lists.



CABINA ROCE





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Layout of ceiling lamps and anemostats

This work is performed cabin by cabin. After automatic subdivision of ceilings into panels, by very simple commands, by pointing the screen cross-hair on the chosen panel, storing is made of the position and type of lamps and of the position and dimensions of holes for anemostats installation. In order to speed up the process, some standard positions of the holes in the various panels are fixed and, if it is necessary, non standard elements can also be very simply stored.

### HARDWARE

Man-computer communication within the CASA system is realized through a TEKTRONIX 4014 terminal connected with the Main Computer; the installation of a refresh buffer allows, for the procedures which require this performance, also a limited activity in the refresh mode.

The configuration is completed by a hard-copy connected to the screen and by an off-line plotter for production of all the drawings utilized for design completion, for workshop manufacturing, and for installation on board of all furnishing materials of the superstructures.

The choice of such hardware turned out to be a very profitable compromise from a technical-economical point of view as it unifies the advantages of low purchase and maintenance costs and 'the advantages to offer the capability of moving on the screen geometrical figures even not very complex.

# MODULARITY OF THR SYSTEM

The C.A.S.A. system has been designed so that it can be modularly inserted in the company's information system.

With this purpose the System organizes and prepares all data so that they can easily be retrieved from the systems connected with CASA. These systems deal with the handling of all furnishing materials from purchase to arrival of components to the yard, to their assemblying at the workshop, and to their definitive installation on board.

### ADVANTAGES

After being exploited on a considerable number of ships the CASA system has widely proved its validity in furnishing design and in workshop documents preparation.

The most significant advantages are:

- 1 reduction of technical times for the preparation
   of the workshop documentation which (for a pro
   totype ship) decreased from 12 down to 6 mon ths; this problem is maximally felt when proto type ships with short delivery times are invol ved;
- 2 Reduction of technical office work load which is decreased (in the area interested by the system) from 6000 down to 2000 hours;
- 3 Saving on costs of materials in stock, better utilization and reutilization of materials;
- 4 Rationalization of -yard's work thanks to a better quality, quantity and quickness of information received.

Further' more utilization of CASA on different types of ships has shown its high flexibility by obtaining excellent results on ferry-boats, tankers, merchantship, and off-shore.

Additional copies of this report can be obtained from the National Shipbuilding Research and Documentation Center:

# http://www.nsnet.com/docctr/

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